

REMARKS

Claims 20, 25, 29 and 30 have been canceled. Claims 1-19, 21-24, 26-28 and 31-39 have been amended and remain in the application. Various claim amendments have been made in an effort to improve grammar and syntax. No new matter has been added. Reexamination and reconsideration of the application, as amended, are respectfully requested.

Applicants note with appreciation the examiner's indication of allowable subject matter in claims 26 and 31-33. In accordance with the examiner's indication, claims 26 and 31-33 have been rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 21-24, 27 and 28 have been amended to depend from allowable claim 26. Claim 34 has been amended to depend from allowable claim 31. It is respectfully submitted that claims 21-24, 27, 28 and 34, as amended, are in condition for allowance for at least the same reasons as allowable claims 26 and 31.

Claims 1, 5-13 and 16-19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Bertram (USP 5,613,137). Claims 29-30, 34-36 and 38 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Yates (USP 6,750,803). Claim 14 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bertram in view of Matzke (USP 4,736,191). Claim 15 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bertram. Claims 2-4, 20-25, 27-28 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bertram in view of Yoshinobu et al. (US Patent No. 5,777,605). Claim 37 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yates in view of Bertram. Claim 39 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yates in view of Matzke.

These rejections are respectfully traversed with respect to the claims, as amended.

The claims, as amended, are directed to methods and devices comprising a number of elements in combination. In representative amended claim 1, for example, the amended claim is directed to a touch pad assembly comprising a touch pad having one or more sensors that map the touch pad plane into native sensor coordinates and a controller that divides the surface of the touch

pad into logical device units. In the claimed combination the controller compares a current set of native values and a prior set of native values and identifies the current set of native values as noise events or actual events, depending whether the current set of native values and the prior set of native values are substantially similar. Support for this recitation can be found, for example, beginning at paragraph 0049 of the present application and in the claims of the application as originally filed. No new matter has been added.

A similar combination of elements is neither disclosed nor suggested in any of the cited references, viewed alone or in combination. None of the prior art references, alone or in combination, discloses or fairly suggests a combination wherein a current set of native values is compared with a prior set of native values and the current set of native values is classified as noise events when the current set of native values is substantially similar to the previous set of native values and classified as actual events when the current set of native values is significantly different than the previous set of native values, as recited in amended claim 1. Claims 2-19, 21-24, 26-28 and 31-39 have been amended to recite a similar combination of features.

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the outstanding rejection of the claims and to pass this application to issue. If it is determined that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number given below.

In the event the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, applicant petitions for any required relief including extensions of time and authorizes the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection

with the filing of this document to Deposit Account No. 03-1952 referencing docket no. 106842005400.

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Respectfully submitted,

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